

Message Text

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R 100730Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8249

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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USIA FOR IBS, IEE; STATE FOR CU/ARTS; VIENNA FOR RPO, OTHERS FOR P&C

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJECT: MCLAIN FAMILY BAND

1. ON THURSDAY, JUNE 5, THE MCLAIN FAMILY BAND ENDED THEIR 1975 OVERSEAS TOUR WITH AN OUTDOOR CONCERT IN THE GARDEN OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PRAGUE. THE BRIGHT AFTERNOON SUN COMBINED WITH THEIR OUTSTANDING PRESENTATION OF BLUEGRASS MUSIC TO PROVIDE A JOYOUS, TOE-TAPPING, HAND-CLAPPING OCCASION FOR MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED GUESTS. INITIALLY, THE APPLAUSE FOR RAYMOND MCLAIN'S EXCITING BANJO SOLOS AND RUTH'S BASS-SLAPPING INTERLUDES WAS LED BY MEMBERS OF TEN CZECH BLUEGRASS GROUPS CONCENCRATED IN FRONT ROWS, BUT, AS HAPPY BLUEGRASS TUNES WOVE THEIR SPELL, REMAINDER OF AUDIENCE INCLUDING SEVERAL AMBASSADORS AND GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS ENTHUSIASTICALLY JOINED IN.

2. DURING TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION AND FOR FORTY MINUTES FOLLOWING CONCERT, MCLAIN FAMILY BAND WAS SURROUNDED BY LOCAL PERFORMERS WHO WANTED TO PICK UP TIPS AND SHOW THEIR STUFF. FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE OF "BLUEGRASS" EXCHANGE CONTINUED INTO EVENING AS BAND ATTENDED THREE HOUR CONCERT BY FIVE LOCAL GROUPS INCLUDING "GREENHORNS" WHO ASSISTED IN LOCAL

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01372 100821Z

ARRANGMENTS FOR MCLAIN FAMILY BAND.

3. EMBASSY FELT INVITATIONAL GARDEN CONCERT WAS EXTREMELY
SUCCESSFUL EVENT, PROBABLY EVEN BETTER THAN PREVIOUSLY
PLANNED JOINT CONCERT. WE EAGERLY HOPE TO HAVE BAND IN PRAGUE
AGAIN NEXT SPRING FOR GROUP OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONCERTS. IN
ALL RESPECTS, MCLAINS ARE SUPERIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR
COUNTRY, THEIR REGION AND THEIR HAPPY MUSICAL GENRE. BLUEGRASS
IS WELL KNOWN, GREATLY APPRECIATED AND WIDELY PERFORMED IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA. BAND MAY WELL HAVE BEEN FIRST AMERICAN BLUEGRASS
GROUP TO PERFORM HERE AND ITS FUTURE POPULARITY IS ABSOLUTELY
CERTAIN. THE SOUNDS OF THE MCLAIN FAMILY BAND PROVE DETENTE CAN
BE FUN.
PERRY

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